



NEWS RELEASE

CITY OF STAMFORD, CONNECTICUT

Michael A. Pavia, Mayor

For Immediate Release

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Mayor Pavia Announces Expansion of Mayor's Youth Employment Program for 2012

Stamford Mayor Michael Pavia announced today the launch and expansion of the Mayor's Youth Employment Program for 2012.

The Mayor's Youth Employment Program, in partnership with the Stamford businesses, non-profits, and the City offers local 16 – 18 year old high school students employment, mentoring, coaching, job skills development, and assistance in college and career planning.

Last year, the program provided summer internships for 30 Stamford students. This six week program cost \$ 69,000 (or \$2,300 per student) and was generously funded by local business and private donations. Due to the overwhelming positive response from local organizations that sponsored interns last year, the goal of Mayor's Youth Employment Program will be to offer up to 60 student internships this summer.

Lee Rizzuto Jr., Senior Vice President of Conair, said "This program is one-of-a kind. Each student is carefully interviewed, selected, matched with a company based on its specific needs and then mentored and evaluated throughout the summer. Companies get to see talented local young people and students get real world work experience."

Melissa Mulrooney, Director of the Stamford Museum & Nature Center, added, "The internship program is much more than a simple summer jobs program. It is a chance for students to learn about both non-profit and for profit organizations and to build workplace skills for the future. The SM&NC benefitted tremendously from our intern's great skills and 'can-do' attitude."

The response from last year's participating students was equally positive. Chris Deveau now a senior at AITE High School summarized the thoughts of the last year's interns "Being able to work during the summer has been great. I appreciated being given this chance. I've learned new skills and I'm going to take what I've learned in the program and use it once I start working on a career after college."

Mayor Pavia is pleased with the progress of the program to date and is looking forward to having more companies and students participate this summer. He added, "I encourage every business in Stamford to consider becoming a part of this program. I strongly believe that this program will continue to make a significant difference in lives of the student intern by giving them a chance to

explore a career, develop good work habits and earn money for their further education. In addition, the program will provide our local companies with the opportunity to identify promising and talented workers for the future.”

The application deadline for high school students is April 30, 2012 and the 6 week internship program runs from June 25, 2012 to August 10, 2012.

To provide an internship position or to sponsor the Mayor’s Youth Employment Program, please contact Michelle Lappas, Program Director, at 203-911-0830 or mlappas@ci.stamford.ct.us.